



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE DEEP WATER GROUPER, SHALLOW WATER GROUPER AND TILEFISH FISHERIES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) announces the opening of the 2008 commercial fishing year for the deep water grouper and tilefish fisheries in Gulf of Mexico federal waters at 12:01 a.m. (local time) January 1, 2008. The commercial fishery for deep water grouper was closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) June 2, 2007, through December 31, 2007. The commercial fishery for golden tilefish was closed, effective 12:01 a.m. (local time) April 18, 2007, through December 31, 2007.

For deep water grouper, the commercial quota for the 2008 fishing year is 1.02 million pounds gutted weight (lbs gw) with a 6,000 lbs gw trip limit for deep water and shallow water grouper combined. For tilefishes, the commercial quota for the 2008 fishing year is 440,000 lbs gw with no trip limit.

The new fishing year for the shallow water grouper commercial fishery will also begin January 1, 2008. This fishery did not close during 2007. The shallow water commercial quota for 2008 is 8.8 million lbs gw, which includes a quota of 5.31 million lbs gw for red grouper. The trip limit is 6,000 lbs gw for deep water and shallow water grouper combined.

How can we improve these fishery bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins please contact:

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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at the address below. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

E-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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